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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Khor et al

Art Unit: 1774

#4

Application No. 10/000,421

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Filed: October 31, 2001

For: METHOD OF PREPARING CHITIN FILMS

Examiner: Tamra Dicus

Date: June 10, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents referred to as being attached or enclosed herewith are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on June 10, 2003 as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP: NON-FEE AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Office action, dated March 10, 2003, Applicants elect Group I (claims 1-29, 37, 39-40) for prosecution with traverse.

Applicants submit that claims 30-36 (Group IV) and 38 (part of Group II) should be examined in the same application.

Group I claims relate to methods of preparing chitin films. Group IV claims relate to methods of preparing an absorbent-matrix and a chitin film containing an absorbent-matrix. There is a significant overlap of subject matter Group I and IV claims and further, claim 30 (Group IV) is generic to Group I claim 37. Given that these claims are in the same field of search and given that there is significant overlap between the claims, it would not cause a serious burden to search and examine Group I and IV claims in the same application. Applicants also note that the Examiner was initially prepared to examine all method claims in this application and request that Group IV claims be recombined with the Group I claims.

Claim 38 of Group II claims a chitin film prepared according to the method of Group I claim 37. Claim 38 is therefore closely related to Group I method claims and it would not cause

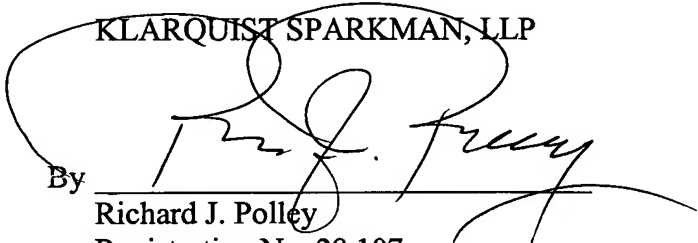
a serious burden to search and examine claim 38 with Group I. claims. Applicants request that claim 38 be combined with the Group I claims.

In view of the foregoing, early favorable consideration of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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